

PRISONERS REACH NANCY IN MISERY

Great Suffering Endured by
Those in the Camp at
Limburg.

ENGLISH TREATED WORST

Many Would Have Died Had
It Not Been for Parcels
From Home.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
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PARIS, Nov. 23.—The first war prisoners returned by Germany in accordance with the terms of the armistice were in a terrible state when they arrived on French soil and were housed in the armistice camp at Nancy. Thousands of French, British, Belgian, Italian, Serbian and Rumanian, clad in worn-out German uniforms, were in a state of indescribable misery when released. A French correspondent says the pitiable spectacle reminded him of Kipling's "The Man That Was."

Most of the prisoners came from the great camp at Limburg. Americans with emaciated faces corroborated the stories of hunger and want in the prison camps which have reached here. Many of them had existed for a long time on nothing more than several ounces daily of dry bread with a bowl of hot water which was called tea. All agreed that if it had not been for the little parcels which arrived from home from time to time all would have been dead by this time.

The French prisoners appear to have been better treated than the others; their clothes were less tattered and many of them had preserved their best garments for the great day of their return to France. Some of the prisoners said the Germans had sung the "Marseillaise" on their departure.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—Fitting conditions among British prisoners of war who have been liberated by the Germans since the signing of the armistice are described by Reuters correspondent at French Headquarters. Thousands of these men, mostly British, are entering France daily. The correspondent writes:

"I never have seen human beings in such a state of raggedness, hunger and misery. When the camp at Forbach, thirty-eight miles east of Metz, as well as those elsewhere, were broken up, the prisoners, most of whom were captured during the March offensive, were told to clear out and seek help from their allies. They started to walk the fifty or sixty miles to the allied lines, but were given no food and had no money. They were in a shameful state, the soles dropping off their boots. Some wore clogs and no socks."

Many Died by Roadside.

"They left the prison camps in droves of hundreds in charge of German officers and soldiers who had deserted. The weather was very cold and many died by the roadside within a few miles from friends. When the survivors entered the French lines French

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soldiers who were hardened war heroes were horrified to see men in such a plight. It is not doubted that this suffering was intentionally imposed upon the British. Prisoners of other nationalities are agreed that the British were treated worse than the others at all German camps.

A further report of Sir Robert Younger, a committee dealing with the treatment of British prisoners in the coal and salt mines of Germany gives harrowing details of brutal treatment by the Germans. This report says:

"From testimony scarcely a month old it is evident that there is no sign of improvement whatever in the treatment of prisoners in Germany. This disgrace is open and flagrant and the only possible inference is that Berlin deliberately approves of it. There is no doubt that work in the mines is inflicted as punishment."

Were Kicked When They Fainted.

"Here is an extract from a letter dated May 20 last from a British private soldier:

"We have had little to eat since we left Hameln. Two of our number have gone to the hospital with broken arms and the remainder are suffering from cuts on their heads and bruises as the result of floggings they received at the last place. I fell in a faint unable to work any longer last Saturday and the man in charge, a civilian, kicked me back into my senses and kept me down in the mine sixteen hours after all my gang had gone up. If you could only see the boys here! They all look like dead men. They are worked to death."

The record of daily promiscuous violence might be much further illustrated. To scores of men who have given evidence concerning the mining camps, kicks, blows and insults became a part of the normal routine.

South Germany in Revolt.

COPENHAGEN, Nov. 23.—Resistance in South Germany, especially in Bavaria, to proletarian dictatorship from Berlin, is rapidly growing and is likely to result in all of south Germany being established as a new independent Government according to the *Herlingske Tidende's* Berlin correspondent.

Biro Hungary's Foreign Minister.

PARIS, Nov. 18 (delayed).—Ludwig Biro, a writer, has been appointed Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, according to a despatch from Budapest.

PERSHING ORDERS MILLION MEN HOME

Continued from First Page.

had hoped to get from Great Britain and France had stopped, and upon receipt of his advice I embarked upon the scheme of transforming some of our boats into horse boats which involved, of course, tearing out the insides of them and building stalls for the horses, and I had just got up to a transportation capacity of about 20,000 horses a month.

"Gen. Pershing indicated, however, that under reversed conditions with organizations returning to the United States they would not need any more horses, and we immediately stopped the transforming of boats thus saving \$600,000 in one stroke. And in all of these problems as they come up each one is dealt with promptly, so that the money of the people can be saved."

In the handling of contracts in the War Department I am working along two lines. I issued an order putting in the hands of the Director of Operations, Gen. Jervay, the cancellation of all contracts referring to construction, that is the kind of construction that goes up around camps. Formerly it was a programme and eighteen divisions in the country meant the increasing of camp facilities at various camps, and in some cases it meant the doubling of the capacity.

"The problems involved in stopping this work lie with Gen. Jervay. The problems connected with the stopping of contracts for supplies lie with Gen. Goethals, and all army contracts are handled with reference to their stopping by those two officers."

"Similar organizations have been established abroad since the signing of the armistice. Immediately after the armistice was signed we cabled Mr. Stettinius making him the personal representative of the War Department in question of the cancellation of contracts abroad, and he has authority to deal in our name with all questions relating to the procurement of supplies, etc., from foreign nations for the army. This had developed into a very large and important factor in our problems."

"In the matter of Christmas presents we get quite a number of letters from all over the United States asking how

this Christmas parcel plan is working out, and I have obtained a number of photographs that perhaps you people would like to see. Acres of Christmas presents were on the piers in New York ready to go abroad, and the first shipment has already started on the steamship *Manchuria*, which sailed November 22 from Hoboken loaded with 15,000 sacks of Christmas packages. Each sack contains about thirty-five of the packages or in all 500,000 packages. Another vessel is there being loaded and will sail shortly. Shiploads will be sent at regular intervals in order to prevent confusion or congestion overseas. In addition to the 2,000,000 parcels which will be sent, we have authorized the Red Cross to send a block number of extra packages, from 50,000 to 40,000, and these will be given to men who have lost their coupons or in some way do not get a package. This is an attempt to guarantee a parcel for every soldier."

COBLENZ AN OLD FORTRESS.

Americans Will Occupy Capital of Rhenish Prussia.

Coblenz, the bridgehead on the Rhine which the American army will occupy, is at the confluence of the Moselle and Rhine rivers and dates back to the third century. Formerly it was a fortress of the first class, but since the Franco-Prussian war it has occupied a secondary place as compared to Cologne, Mainz, Strasbourg and Metz.

Coblenz had a large wine trade because of its situation with respect to the wine-growing countries in the valleys of the Moselle and the Rhine. On the east bank of the Rhine opposite Coblenz is the famous fortress of Ehrenbreitstein.

The new fortress was built early in the nineteenth century. The old one played an important part in German wars and was captured by storm by the French in 1799.

Some parts of the town are very old and have quaint winding streets lined with buildings erected in the Middle Ages. The bridge of boats to Ehrenbreitstein is one of the sights. Coblenz is the capital of Rhenish Prussia. Its population is about 45,000.

LOOT MARKS TRAIL THROUGH BELGIUM

German Soldiers Reach Aix-la-Chapelle Heavily Laden With Provender.

FOOD FORMS CHIEF ITEM

Evidence Grows That Socialist Government Had Convivance of Military Party.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times Service.

THE HAGUE, Nov. 23.—A special correspondent sent to western Germany immediately after the outbreak of the revolution, sends this remarkable story of scenes in Aix-la-Chapelle:

I turned a corner of the highway from Liege and ran into a most extraordinary sight—a child's goat cart pulled by a tiny donkey and occupied by a large soldier flourishing a long whip tied with a red ribbon. Instead of a rifle he had a goose slung on his neck over his shoulder and out of his haversack peered a bottle of wine. He had come from Liege, and behind him followed for miles one long procession of every conceivable thing on wheels commanded by the soldiers. Thus they are making their way home.

The procession continued all day Wednesday, and went on unceasingly Thursday and Friday. It had begun chiefly with motor traffic, but by Sunday there passed me successively a farm cart, an old family coach with high wheels, an early high Tilbury, a tiny dog drawn baker's cart, an open wagon with Louis

XV. chairs roped down for the comfort of the occupants; a cow fastened to a wagonette, then a two wheel gig, then one of the Belgian dog carts.

Loot and Especially Food.

One farm wagon contained sheep, a goat, a pig, geese, a few chickens and rabbits. One small cart had a pig roped in front of a drawing room chair and tied to the back of other vehicles and covered so one could not see whether it contained men or food, but the whole procession was loot of every sort, more especially food, alive or dead. I realized why all who could had grabbed everything possible in the way of food, when presently a little cart with twenty men piled into it came along. They were singing a new version of an old German song, "Nach der Heimat," which may be translated roughly, "Home, home, we are going home; though there's nothing to eat in home, sweet home."

They said some day they had little to eat, "except what we could steal."

I saw a gang of prisoners of war—French, British and Russian—as they were marched along the streets. Their appearance was simply ghastly. They were in rags, hollow cheeked and famine stricken. I do not believe the prisoners generally released heard of the Westphalian mines, where the English prisoners refused to return to work after the signing of the armistice. A German Guard council threatened to use force unless they did their part.

Thursday afternoon I went to the station to try to get a train for Cologne. I watched for two hours a second crazy procession. A long train of carriages and trucks streamed slowly by and were swarmed with men and the men were standing tightly packed to the footboards. Men were clinging to the buffers, men were on the roofs; men were in front of the locomotive and many in the cab of the locomotive. As the train came in the men began to throw their rifles overhead. Some made it a point to try to smash them, others dumped them over with the bayonet fixed. Some sold their rifles for fifty or seventy-five cents each. Some marked the price of a helmet at about four cents and iron crosses sold for a cent each.

In a restaurant a waitress hearing that I came from Holland asked how to get there.

"The Allies will come here and I want

to get away first," she said. I told her the English would come and she turned white then red and clenching her fist said, "The English! My God!"

When I replied that the English were good people she refused to serve me.

It is perfectly useless to talk of using gentleness, for the Germans will neither forgive nor forget.

A banker with a grin told me the German provisional government already had had before President Wilson the view that Germany would be ruined economically and her people threatened with starvation if she has to pay indemnities rapidly.

"It must not be imagined the capture or control by Herr Ebert and the Socialists of the Government is anything resembling a Socialist coup d'etat. It happened not only without opposition but with the connivance of the other parties. The revolution began essentially not in Kiel but in Stockholm, when it was common knowledge the war could not be won. A programme was worked out by a clever man with high military officers privy to it. If Germany could get away from terms and if Ebert's Government could obtain American sympathy for a republican Germany the Germans would speedily raise to the crests again. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* warning that the monarchy still is a possible alternative to a republic soon would be justified. The establishment of Ebert's Government happened too easily."

THREE EDITORS INDICTED.

Head of Cleveland German Daily Faces Espionage Charge.

CLEVELAND, Nov. 23.—Richard Brenne, editor of the *Waechter und Ausleger*, Cleveland German language daily, was indicted by the Federal Grand Jury today for violation of the espionage act in the alleged garbling of a Wolff News Bureau despatch on July 24.

Fritz Fene, editor of the *Echo*, also was indicted, together with the paper itself, for failure to file a translation of an editorial. A similar charge is made in an indictment against the *Radnicka Bourba*, a Socialist Labor party organ, and its editor, Lazar Petrovic.

BRITISH TO GREET WILSON WITH NAVY

Reception May Be at Plymouth, the Pilgrims' Port.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—The British Admiralty is considering plans for the reception of President Wilson. It will probably send warships to meet the Agamemnon and escort the Presidential party to port.

One plan under discussion includes a reception at Plymouth, whence the Pilgrims sailed for the Western continent; with possibly a ceremony in the building on the site of the house in which the Pilgrims were entertained before setting sail.

PARIS, Nov. 23 (Havas).—The French Senate has passed unanimously the motion already adopted by the Chamber of Deputies paying homage to President Wilson as "having well deserved of humanity." The motion pays the same honor to the allied nations and their chiefs.

Premier Clemenceau was reported early today to have gone to London, but he is still in Paris. A semi-official note published this evening in the *Temps* explains that Premier Lloyd George has invited M. Clemenceau to visit London and that the French Premier has accepted in principle, though the date has not yet been fixed. The Premier certainly will not go to London, it is added, before King George and Queen Mary have made their intended visit to Paris at the end of this month.

A Socialist delegation called on Premier Clemenceau Friday to inquire whether the Government would have representatives of the working classes at the peace conference and whether an international congress would be authorized during the negotiations. The Premier replied that he would refer both questions to the Cabinet and the Allied Governments.

Italian Bourgeois to Reopen Dec. 2.

ROME, Nov. 23 (British wireless service).—An official decree authorizes the reopening of the Italian commercial

Bourses on December 2.

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